

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005  
11:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair  
Deb Schorr, Vice Chair  
Bob Workman

Commissioners Absent: Bernie Heier  
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 3, 2005**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of February 3, 2005. Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Microcomputer Request C#2005-030, \$983.55 from County Engineer, for One (1) HP EVO Pentium IV Computer and Software (Exhibit A)
- B. LB 557 (Change permitted uses of lodging tax revenue) (Exhibit B)
- C. Meeting with Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) Regarding Recreation Trails Program Grant Request

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Workman, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

## ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Microcomputer Request C#2005-030, \$983.55 from County Engineer, for One (1) HP EVO Pentium IV Computer and Software (Exhibit A)

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said funding will be out of the Highway Fund.

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded approval. Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. LB 557 (Change permitted uses of lodging tax revenue) (Exhibit B)

Eagan referred to Section (2), Lines 18-23 and said the wording should be as follows:

*If the visitors committee determines that the visitor attractions in the county are adequate and do not require improvement or construction, the governing body of the county may use the County Visitors Improvement Fund to promote, encourage, and attract visitors to the county to use the county's travel and tourism facilities.*

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded to authorize Commissioner Schorr to provide testimony on behalf of the County Board in support of LB 557, with the stated correction. Workman, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- C. Meeting with Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) Regarding Recreation Trails Program Grant Request

Eagan said Glenn Johnson, Lower Platte South NRD General Manager, has proposed a meeting to discuss a request by the Abbott Sports Complex for the Lower Platte South NRD to serve as the lead agency for a grant under the Recreation Trails Program to establish a motocross track at the Abbott Sports Complex site (7600 North 70<sup>th</sup> Street).

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded to authorize Commissioner Workman and Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, to represent the Board at a meeting to discuss the possibility of a Recreation Trails Program grant for a motocross track. Workman, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

### 3 JUVENILE DRUG TEST CONTRACTOR - Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, said youth who are on probation and fail a field drug test are remanded to the Youth Services Center to await more comprehensive testing by the State Probation, which takes an average of 10-14 days. She suggested that it would be more expedient to contract for a drug tester to address this population (the individual would work two hours a day, seven days a week, and results could be returned to the Juvenile Court in 24-48 hours). State Probation has agreed to train this person and allow use of their testing equipment. Boesch said a Substance Abuse Alternative Grant was submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission, to cover the cost (estimated at \$7,300), but said there is no guarantee of funding. She suggested that the Board fund the position for the remainder of the year and use any grant proceeds to fund the following year.

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded to: 1) Fund a contract with State Probation for a juvenile drug tester, at two hours a day, seven days, a week, with \$7,300 from the Contingency Fund; and 2) Direct Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, to work with Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, on funding and to monitor statistics, with a report in November, 2005. Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **4 NEGLECTED AND ABANDONED CEMETERIES - Russ Shultz, Weed Control Authority Superintendent**

Russ Shultz, Weed Control Authority Superintendent, said the County has accepted maintenance and preservation of three abandoned and neglected pioneer cemeteries (Jordan Cemetery, Highland Precinct Cemetery and Uphoff Cemetery) and recommended that future maintenance include:

- Annual spraying in the month of April to control weeds and seedling trees and to suppress the grass growth
- Annual mowing two weeks prior to Memorial Day
- Other maintenance as determined on a case by case basis
- Work to be performed by a Weed Control Services contractor

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded to proceed with maintenance of the three cemeteries, as outlined. Workman, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Eagan noted there are provisions for required historical and optional directional markers in Nebraska Revised Statute §12-810.

The Board asked Shultz to consult with the County Engineer on signage.

**5 FUNDING PROCESS FOR HOMELAND SECURITY - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director**

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, reported on the State's process for distributing Homeland Security funds to local governments and expressed concern that reimbursement for projects has not been timely. He proposed that a letter be sent to Governor Dave Heineman suggesting that the State, upon receipt of Homeland Security funds, immediately transfer to the local unit of government the total portion of funds for approved projects (Exhibit C). Any reallocation of funds would need approval, in writing, by the State and the Office of Homeland Security.

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded to authorize the Chair and Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, to sign the letter. Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

**6 A) COUNTY SERVICE AWARDS RENEWAL; B) SET DATE FOR LUNCHEON/CEREMONY - Cori Beattie, County Board Administrative Secretary**

**A) County Service Awards Renewal**

Cori Beattie, County Board Administrative Secretary, asked whether the Board wants to renew the contract to use the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce's "Shop Lincoln" gift certificate program for county service awards. She said 96 employees will be recognized this year (approximately a \$400 increase).

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded to utilize the "Shop Lincoln" gift certificate program for county service awards. Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

**B) Set Date for Luncheon/Ceremony**

The Board scheduled the event at 11:30 a.m. on May 17, 2005 at Windsor Stables (1024 L Street).

**7 INCREASED COST TO COUNTY DUE TO OFFICE OF JUVENILE SERVICES (OJS) EVALUATIONS - Dennis Banks, Youth Services Center Director**

Dennis Banks, Youth Services Center Director, presented Estimated Cost of Evaluation Process (Exhibit D). He said staffing and operational costs, estimated at \$96,000 to \$100,000, that are related to the opening of an additional housing pod were not included in the budget.

Eagan suggested that Banks write a legal opinion request regarding the responsibility of the State to pay detention costs during the evaluation period.

**8 SALARY FOR CAPTAIN'S PROMOTION - Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff**

Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff, said Captain Bill Coleman plans to retire and Sergeant Ben Houchin has been named as his replacement. He recommended that Houchin's starting salary be set at \$69,300.

The Board scheduled the item on the February 15, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

**9 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

A. Letter from Kissel/E&S Associates

Eagan reported receipt of a letter from Kissel/E&S Associates indicating that the firm has been retained by WebMD. No conflicts are anticipated.

B. Nomination of James Douglas to Lincoln-Lancaster County Ecological Advisory Committee (Exhibit E)

The Board scheduled the item on the February 15, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

**10 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

A. Area 5 Agricultural and Horticultural Land Valuation Board (AHLVB) - Hudkins

Hudkins said the Area 5 AHLVB Board voted to oppose LB 407 (Eliminate provisions relating to agricultural and horticultural land valuation).

B. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Stevens

Hudkins said the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has asked that the south parking lot for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department be closed and returned to grass (a loss of twelve parking stalls).

C. Homeland Security Grant Committee - Workman

Workman said Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, is working with other agencies to determine priorities.

D. Public Building Commission - Hudkins, Workman

Hudkins said a decision was made on chairs for the City Council/County Commissioners Hearing Room. He also reported that the cost to install a "crash bar" on the double doors leading into the County Board Offices is higher than anticipated and said it will not be pursued further.

**11 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

---

Bruce Medcalf  
Lancaster County Clerk